

# The Status of *Teesdaliopsis* and *Teesdalia* (Brassicaceae)

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**ABSTRACT.** The genus *Teesdaliopsis* is reduced to synonymy of *Teesdalia*. The new combination *Teesdalia conferta* is proposed. A key to the three species of *Teesdalia* is provided.

The genus *Teesdalia* (2 spp.) is one of about ten genera of the Brassicaceae that have zygomorphic flowers (Rollins, 1963). It is apparently closely related to *Iberis* (von Hayek, 1911; Schulz, 1936). Based on *Iberis conferta* Lagasca, Willkomm (1880) described the monotypic section *Teesdaliopsis*, which was elevated to generic rank by Rothmaler (1940). According to Rothmaler, *Teesdaliopsis* was said to be closely related to *Teesdalia* but clearly differed by having 1-seeded instead of 2-seeded locules. However, Ball et al. (1993) showed that the seed number is unreliable and that only the annual vs. perennial habit can be used to separate *Teesdalia* and *Teesdaliopsis*, respectively. A critical comparison of the three species of these genera is shown in Table 1.

*Teesdalia* and *Teesdaliopsis* are distinguished, respectively, by the annual vs. perennial habit and two vs. one ovule per locule. On the other hand, both *Teesdalia nudicaulis* and *Teesdaliopsis conferta* share zygomorphic flowers, and all three species share appendaged filaments and winged fruits that are extremely similar. The combination of zygomorphic flowers, appendaged filaments, and winged

fruits is rare in the Brassicaceae. The differences between these two genera are so minor that *Teesdaliopsis* is best placed within *Teesdalia*. The three species of *Teesdalia* are separated as follows:

- 1a. Plants perennial, ovules 1 per locule  
..... *T. conferta* (Lagasca) O. Appel
- 1b. Plants annual, ovules 2 per locule.
  - 2a. Basal leaf lobes obtuse, flowers zygomorphic, petals longer than sepals, stamens 6  
..... *T. nudicaulis* (L.) R. Brown
  - 2b. Basal leaf lobes acute or leaves entire, flowers actinomorphic, petals not exceeding sepals, stamens usually 4  
..... *T. coronopifolia* (J. P. Bergeret) Thellung

**1. *Teesdalia conferta* (Lagasca) O. Appel, comb. nov.** Basionym: *Iberis conferta* Lagasca, *Varied. Cienc.* 2(22): 213. 1805. TYPE: no collection data (holotype, MA?).

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## Literature Cited

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Table 1. A comparison of *Teesdalia nudicaulis*, *T. coronopifolia*, and *Teesdaliopsis conferta*.

	<i>Teesdalia nudicaulis</i>	<i>Teesdalia coronopifolia</i>	<i>Teesdaliopsis conferta</i>
Habit	annual	annual	perennial
Basal leaves	pinnatifid	pinnatifid to entire	entire
Apex of basal leaves	obtuse	acute	acute
Stem leaves	present or lacking	present or lacking	lacking
Trichomes	present or lacking	present or lacking	lacking
Petal length	longer than sepals	as long as sepals	longer than sepals
Petal size	unequal	± equal	unequal
Stamen number	6	usually 4	6
Filaments	appendaged	appendaged	appendaged
Ovules per locule	2	2	1
Stigma	entire	entire	entire
Style	obsolete	lacking	obsolete
Seeds per locule	1 or 2	1 or 2	1

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